

THE A.P. ENGLISH 11-12 SUMMER READING REQUIREMENT

A.P. 11-12 students will once again enjoy the reading of two great works of literature over the summer break. We will be using both books in class during the year. You will not be required to complete study guides; you merely must read the books and take the reading tests on the dates indicated.

THE POWER AND THE GLORY (available from Mr. Fenske)

Test date: Wednesday, August 26 (the second day of school)

The Power and the Glory is a 20th century British novel by Graham Greene. It concerns an unnamed priest who is on the run from the communist government of one of the states in southern Mexico. The priest has several additional problems, one of which is that he is an alcoholic in a state that has prohibition.

Greene spent a lot of time working in Hollywood doing scripts, and Part I of the book mimics a movie by cutting away from one group of people to another to establish the basic setting and tone of the book. Many of the people in Part 1 are not major characters. Throughout Part 1, the unnamed stranger who appears in each scene (or is talked about) is the whiskey priest.

Once you get to Parts 2-3, you'll find the book easier to read, as the lieutenant chases the priest. Parts 2-3 are almost completely told from the whiskey priest's point of view. Then, in Part 4, the book reverts back to the cutaways of Part 1.

The major characters of the book are the whiskey priest, the lieutenant, and the half-caste. Of secondary importance are the peasant family (they are reading a book about a fictional martyr named Juan), the jefe of police, the Lehrs, and ex-Padre Jose. In addition, there are a number of minor characters who provide some perspective on the priest, such as Mr. Tench, the villagers, the Fellows family, villagers, prisoners, Maria and Brigitta, and the American fugitive.

COLLECTED SHORT STORIES OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY (available from Mrs. Gesch)

Test date: Friday, August 28 (the fourth day of school)

Hemingway has got to be the best short story writer of all time. Watch how he develops character through dialogue, and fleshes out an ethic of "grace under pressure" (which, incidentally, he himself could not live up to). We will be using all of these stories in the literary criticism unit that begins the year. I will test your recall of major incidents in the stories (not story titles).